

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 29, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
The Capitol S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
The Capitol S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Capitol H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
The Capitol H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi,

The Problem Solvers Caucus is a group premised around the notion that Congress works best when Members engage with one another on a bipartisan basis in order to advance solutions to our nation's most pressing problems. So far this year, the Problem Solver Caucus has come together to advocate for a reasonable and responsible spending bill and to develop a better approach to reforming our nation's health care system. We believe that durable and sustainable solutions can be reached through bipartisan cooperation and leadership.

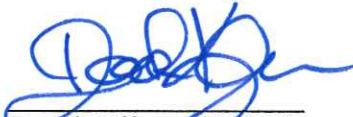
We write to you now as Congress is once again facing an imminent deadline with government funding expected to expire on December 8 and no clear path forward for resolving both the policy and funding level debates. One of the main drivers of uncertainty around passage of spending bills for Fiscal Year 2018 is the unrealistic constraints for producing Appropriations bills that comply with the caps put in place by the Budget Control Act. Democrats and Republicans have raised concerns that the cuts required by sequestration would simply not meet the commitments made to our constituents or to those who serve our nation in the armed forces.

In prior years, bipartisan budget deals have removed the threat of sequestration and paved the way for fiscally responsible spending bills that have passed with Republican and Democratic support. We believe that Congress should act quickly towards passing a long-term, bipartisan budget deal that would eliminate sequestration cuts for at least two years. We also support efforts to fully pay for any increase of the discretionary budget caps, so that defense and non-defense discretionary spending can be funded at more adequate levels, responsibly. We stand ready to work with you to accomplish this goal.

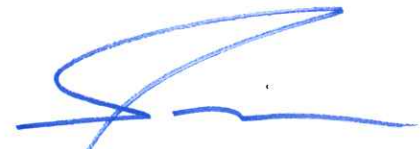
Sincerely,



Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5)
Co-Chair, Problem Solvers Caucus
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer (WA-6)
Member of Congress



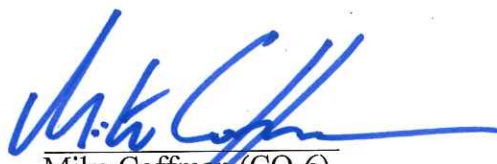
Tom Reed (NY-23)
Co-Chair, Problem Solvers Caucus
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent (PA-15)
Member of Congress



Ami Bera (CA-7)
Member of Congress



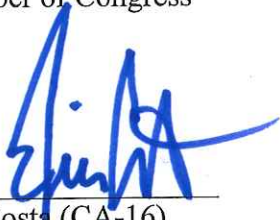
Mike Coffman (CO-6)
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal (CA-24)
Member of Congress



Ryan A. Costello (PA-6)
Member of Congress



Jim Costa (CA-16)
Member of Congress



Carlos Curbelo (FL-26)
Member of Congress



Charlie Crist (FL-13)
Member of Congress



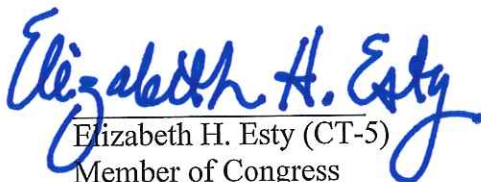
John J. Faso (NY-19)
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell (MI-12)
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick (PA-8)
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty (CT-5)
Member of Congress



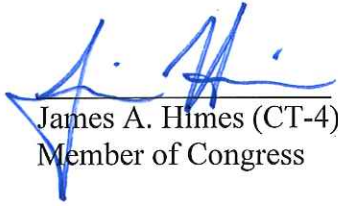
Mike Gallagher (WI-8)
Member of Congress



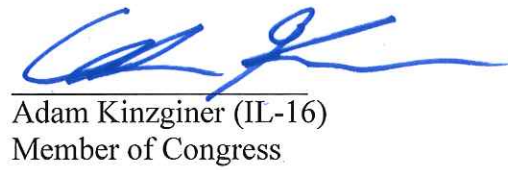
Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15)
Member of Congress




John Katko (NY-24)
Member of Congress



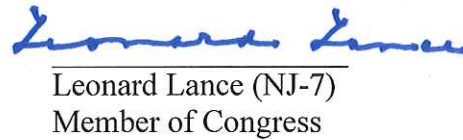
James A. Himes (CT-4)
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger (IL-16)
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski (IL-3)
Member of Congress



Leonard Lance (NJ-7)
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy (FL-7)
Member of Congress



Martha McSally (AZ-2)
Member of Congress



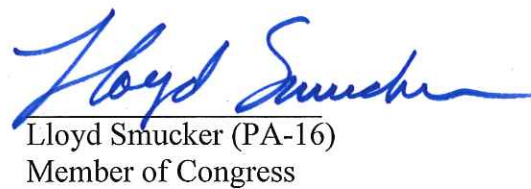
Tom O'Halleran (AZ-1)
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan (PA-7)
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta (CA-20)
Member of Congress




Lloyd Smucker (PA-16)
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters (CA-52)
Member of Congress



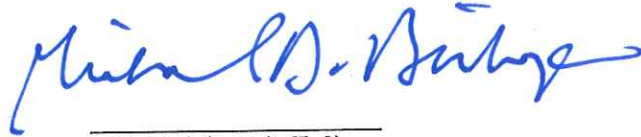
David A. Trott (MI-11)
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen (NV-3)
Member of Congress



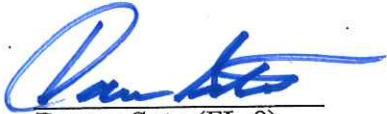
Bradley S. Schneider (IL-10)
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop (MI-8)
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9)
Member of Congress



Darren Soto (FL-9)
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi (NY-3)
Member of Congress



Peter Welch (VT)
Member of Congress